Remarks by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin
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Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being here to salute the pioneers of the Apollo team on the 30th anniversary of humankind's most awe-inspiring achievement—setting foot on the moon.

We are celebrating the success of Apollo 11 today but we are sad too. The sudden and tragic loss of Pete Conrad has affected every one who was lucky enough to know him. Pete was an energetic supporter of the space program throughout his life, and we will all miss him.

Before I start, I want to thank Lori Garver and her entire team who worked so hard to make this event happen.

I also want to acknowledge the people whose incredible achievement 30 years ago is the reason we are here today—the Crew of Apollo 11 and the entire Apollo team. Thank you for your dedication in making President Kennedy's vision a reality.

There are so many important legacies of Apollo to celebrate—the incredible national pride it instilled, the triumph of engineering and management that made it happen, and the new perspective of our planet that we gained.

Even if these were the only results from the journey to the Moon and back, the legacy would be immense. But there is much more to celebrate.

Ever know anyone who has needed a CAT Scan or an MRI? What about kidney dialysis?

Have you ever used a cordless power tool?

Do you appreciate a car with a quiet ride?

Is clean drinking water important to you?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you have yet another reason to honor the people of Project Apollo. As they broke the bonds of Earth's gravity, the Apollo Team dramatically improved the lives of those of us down here cheering them on.

They are the ones responsible for the amazing advances I just mentioned and hundreds more. Not because they were trying to develop technologies use on Earth, but because they developed great technologies to achieve mission goals and then figured out ways to use them on the ground.

Now, I'm not saying that NASA can only be successful in the future by developing commercial products. What I am saying is that the incredible innovation the Apollo team demonstrated should be the yardstick for measuring our future successes.

It is that resourcefulness that led the Apollo team to invent systems and tools for achieving the mission. And I know that today's NASA team has the same capacity for achieving great things. Just imagine if you were the one who figured out how to lower the per-pound cost of launch by an order of magnitude or two?

I imagine your next performance review would go pretty well.

Or what if you were part of the team that designed, developed, and built a Coke can-sized spacecraft that will reach and land on a passing asteroid two years after it is launched from Earth.

Aboard the asteroid, the spacecraft will use its DNA-based system as a blueprint to evolve, adapt and grow into a more complex exploring and thinking system. It will ride the asteroid like a parasite until it transforms itself into its next evolvable state – an intelligent interstellar probe.

It will use the asteroid's native resources to accomplish the first phase of its mission. This may mean using the asteroid's iron, carbon and other materials to build its structure, nervous system, and communications. This reconfigurable hybrid system can adapt form

and function to deal with changes and unanticipated problems. Eventually it will leave its host carrier and travel at a good fraction of the speed of light out to the stars and other solar systems.

Sound far-fetched? Sure, but in 1961 didn't it sound far-fetched to say we would send humans to the Moon and bring them back safely? And by the end of the decade no less.

Yet that's exactly what happened. Humans set foot on the Moon and then returned to Earth. The Apollo team met the challenge, and as they did, they set an incredibly high standard for the rest of us.

And today, we face our own challenges. We want to

--explore the origins of the Universe
--gather and comprehend the original fingerprints of life
--learn everything we can about the planets in our solar system
--increase our knowledge of our own planet
--uncover the mysteries of the new planets we've discovered outside our solar system

and so much more. But we'll only be able to reach our goals when we can rely on the intelligence and dedication of every one of you. The Apollo team has given us a legacy of innovation and success, and it is up to us to build on their accomplishments.

My challenge to everyone on the NASA team is to draw inspiration from the Apollo example. The best and the brightest are a part of the NASA team. It was true in the Apollo era and it's true today. And when we meet the ambitious challenges we have before us with the same dedication and the spirit as the Project Apollo team, anything is possible.

Thank you to the Apollo crew for inspiring us to dream about going to the Moon and beyond, and thank you to the rest of the Apollo team for inspiring us to be audacious enough to know we can do it. Thank you.